



2011 HARRIS COUNTY FAIR BBQ COOK-OFF
OCTOBER 14-15, 2011
RULES AND REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Harris County Fair BBQ Cook-off will be located at the Houston Farm & Ranch, off Highway 6 North @ Patterson Road, approximately 2-1/2 miles north of I-10 in Houston, Texas. Applications are available in the offices of the Houston Farm & Ranch during normal business hours between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 pm. Monday thru Friday or may be also obtained by calling 281/463-6650. The mailing address is as follows:

**HARRIS COUNTY FAIR BBQ COOKOFF
C/O HOUSTON FARM & RANCH
ONE ABERCROMBIE DRIVE
HOUSTON, TX 77084**

*Any questions, please contact BBQ Chairman, Dolores Patterson, 281-701-2603 or dolores1956@sbcglobal.net
Applications can also be obtained from the Texas Gulf Coast BBQ Cookers Assn. website (www.tgcbca.org).*

2. The Harris County Fair BBQ Cook-off will be limited to approximately 100 cooking teams. All spaces are located on the parking lot. **(Rule Change.....contact Dolores @ 281-701-2603)**

3. The Houston Farm & Ranch, Harris County Fair Association, Harris County Fair BBQ Committee and their representatives will not be responsible or liable for any theft or damage. **The Cooking Teams will be held financially responsible for any damage to the asphalt parking lot in their team space.**

4. The Harris County Fair Association and the Harris County Fair BBQ Chairman reserve the right to change, amend or make additional rules and/or regulations as situations warrant. All decisions of the BBQ Chairman and the Harris County Fair BBQ Committee will be final. **Teams must adhere to City of Houston Health Dept. & Fire Marshal's Rules and Regulations. Summaries will be available at the Cook's Meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 in St. Grass Bldg. at 6:30pm.**

5. All entries must be in the Fair Office at the Houston Farm & Ranch no later than **Wednesday, October 12th, 2011** with the entry fee of \$150.00. **Jackpot Open will be a \$10 entry.** If you choose not to pay in advance, please fax your entry form to 281-463-4165 and be **prepared to pay your entry fee IN CASH at time of arrival.** If you have faxed your form into the office and find that you will not be able to attend, please notify the Fair Office so that your spot can be reassigned. The Harris County Fair BBQ Committee reserves the right to approve or reject any entry.

ADMINISTRATION/CHECK-IN:

6. All contestants must check in and set up their space between **8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.** on Friday, **October 14, 2011.** The contest is open to the public at 5pm, and no vehicular traffic will be allowed after 5pm.

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Contestant Supervisors will be assigned to teams to assist with information and area placement questions. **Early arrivals will not be allowed to enter the Fairgrounds before 8:00 a.m.**

7. Teams will be allowed to drop off pits or RV's on **Thursday, October 13, 2011** between the hours of **3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** Teams will not be allowed to stay the night and all personnel will be asked to leave the property by 8:00 p.m. The front access gates will be secured at that time. Requests for early admittance must be **directed to Dolores Patterson, HCF BBO Chairman, at 281-701-2603 NO LATER THAN October 12, 2011.**

8. Gates for vehicle access will be closed Friday at 5:00 p.m. Check in after 5:00 p.m. on Friday, **October 14, 2011** will be denied unless prior arrangements or notification has been made with the BBQ Cook-off Chairman. **NO EXCEPTIONS WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION.** All aisles must be cleared of vehicular traffic by 5:00 p.m. on Friday.

9. The cook-off will be over **Saturday, October 15th**, after the judging finals and awards. Teams may tear down their area and leave the premises with an authorized escort from **8pm – 10pm. Teams are welcome to stay overnight on Saturday October 15, 2011. All equipment must be moved off the property by 12:00 NOON on Sunday October 16, 2011 - there will be no exceptions.**

TEAM COOKING AREA:

10. All spaces can either be 40x40 ft, 35x40 ft, or 20x40 ft (for motor homes and a pit only). Electricity (**20 AMP CIRCUIT ONLY**) is available to each space for lighting only. No extra power is available for purchase.

11. There will also be water available on site. Be prepared to haul water to your site. No private use water hoses can be used.

12. Props, trailers, pits, appliances, vehicles, tents, coverings, or any part of the team's equipment **may not** exceed the boundaries of the assigned space. **TENTS CANNOT BE STAKED - MUST BE SECURED BY EITHER WATER BARRELS OR CONCRETE BLOCKS.**

13. Teams are allowed one (1) motor home, travel trailer or living quarters in their assigned space. The living quarters must be self-contained.

14. Generators will be permitted; however, they must be muffled and in excellent working condition. If a generator is not muffled or is leaking fuel, the team will be instructed to turn it off and not use it during the course of the cook-off. If these instructions are not followed, the team will be disqualified from the competition and will not be invited back to future cook-offs.

15. It is the responsibility of the BBQ teams to keep their area clean, uncluttered and assist in garbage disposal. Each team must provide at least two trash cans for their space. Teams should place bagged trash in the tilt dumpsters at the end of each aisle. Cans for hot ashes and/or coals are available on site and must be used. There will also be a container for grease disposal **ONLY** on site. **FAILURE TO USE THESE RECEPTACLES PROPERLY OR TO KEEP YOUR AREA CLEAN MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.**

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16. Port-a-Cans will be available for rent at a rate of \$60.00 per unit (\$90 for handicapped entry) for the weekend (includes servicing on October 15th, 2011). Order forms must be returned to the HCFBBQ Cook Off committee with your entry form. If service is required for a R.V., the service charge will be \$35.00 per R.V. Port a Can forms must be returned no later than the date of the chief cook's meeting.

17. Contestants must supply all needed equipment and essential supplies. The BBQ management will provide space only.

18. **ICE** - 20 lbs. bags will be available at \$5.00 each. Ice sales will start at Noon on Friday. No commercial ice boxes are allowed in the team spaces.

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION:

19. The Chief Cook will be held responsible for the conduct of his team and their guests.

20. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC BY CONTESTANTS.** Each team must keep their alcohol supply out of sight. No open display of a serving area or flaunting of large supplies will be allowed. **PLEASE BE DISCREET.**

21. **CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL BY MINORS IS ILLEGAL AND WILL NOT BE PERMITTED ON HOUSTON FARM & RANCH PROPERTY.** Individuals or teams caught making alcohol available to minors will be fined and excluded from this and all future competitions.

22. **NOTE: TEXAS STATE LAW REQUIRES:**

You must be 21 years of age to consume alcohol.

NO drinking of alcohol before 12 NOON on Sunday.

GENERAL:

23. Special entertainment and scheduled times must be submitted in writing to the BBQ Cook-off Chairman prior to the cook-off for approval. **No bands or loud music will be allowed after 12:00 MIDNIGHT, on Friday October 14, 2011.** All band equipment must be dollied in and dollied out. No exceptions.

24. *No animals will be allowed in the contest or cook-off areas, except for Seeing Eye or Special Assistance Animals. All pets must be on leash at all times and confined to their owner's BBQ site. When walking your pets on grassy areas, please pick up and dispose all waste.*

25. *For safety reasons, no unauthorized golf carts, fire trucks, bicycles, motorcycles, motorized carts (with the exception of wheelchairs), roller blades, skate boards, water balloons, sling shots, firearms, projectile launchers or small off-road vehicles will be allowed in the cook-off area due to the risk of injury and liability issues.*

MORE IMPORTANT: DO NOT DRIVE OVER POWER CABLES!!! Subject to disqualification!!!!

26. If you want to have a private party, your area will need to be enclosed by fencing with a gate and the team must have a policeman or licensed security officer on duty.

27. There is a \$5.00 admission charge for entry into the Harris County Fair BBQ Cook-off area on Friday and

Saturday, October 14th & 15th, 2011. Children 6 and under are free.

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28. Chief Cooks and the four (4) Assistant Cooks will receive an armband in their packet to identify them during the cook-off. This identifying armband will admit the person to whom it was issued to all public areas during the entire weekend and must be worn on the wrist all times during the cook-off.

COOKING:

29. ***There will be a Chief Cook's meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 in St. Grass Bldg. at 6:30pm.***

The Texas Gulf Coast BBQ Cookers Association (TGCBCA) sanctions the Harris County Fair BBQ Cook-off and the Judging Official with TGCBCA will instruct the teams on what is required for this competition. The team spaces will be assigned as this meeting.

30. There will also be a Chief Cook's meeting on ***Saturday, October 15th, at 9:00 a.m.*** *The turn-in containers will be handed out at this time. The containers will also be available for the Chief Cooks ONLY to pick up on Friday night from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.* in the Salt Grass Trail Building.

31. Meat inspection will begin on **Friday, October 14th**, at approximately 12 Noon and conclude at approximately 6:00 p.m. the same day. **Contest meats must be uncooked and may not be salted, seasoned or marinated prior to the meat inspection.** You may start cooking at any time after meat is inspected.

32. Cooking and Pit Fires must be wood or wood substance. All pits must be diapered or have a fire pan placed under the fire box.

33. **TGCBCA RULES ARE: ONE CHIEF COOK - ONE PIT.**

Judging will begin at 11AM on Saturday October 15, 2011

Jackpot Open

11:00 AM

Two CHICKEN HALVES

12:00 NOON

(Fully Jointed)

PORK SPARE RIBS

2.00 P.M.

(No baby back or country style)

BRISKET

4:00 P.M.

34. All awards will be presented on **Saturday, October 15th**, @ approximately 6:00 p.m. in the designated area. All decisions by the Judges are final.

AWARDS:

35. **Awards for the 2011 Harris County BBQ Cook-off competition will be as follows:**

1ST

PLACE CHICKEN

\$400.00 AND TROPHY

2ND

PLACE CHICKEN

\$350.00 AND TROPHY

3RD

PLACE CHICKEN

\$300.00 AND TROPHY

4TH

PLACE CHICKEN

\$200.00 AND RIBBON

5TH

PLACE CHICKEN

\$100.00 AND RIBBON

6TH THRU 10TH PLACE CHICKEN

\$ 50.00 EACH PLACE WITH RIBBON

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<u>1ST</u>	<u>PLACE PORK SPARE RIBS</u>	<u>\$400.00 AND TROPHY</u>
<u>2ND</u>	<u>PLACE PORK SPARE RIBS</u>	<u>\$350.00 AND TROPHY</u>
<u>3RD</u>	<u>PLACE PORK SPARE RIBS</u>	<u>\$300.00 AND TROPHY</u>
<u>4TH</u>	<u>PLACE PORK SPARE RIBS</u>	<u>\$200.00 AND RIBBON</u>
<u>5TH</u>	<u>PLACE PORK SPARE RIBS</u>	<u>\$100.00 AND RIBBON</u>
<u>6TH</u>	<u>THRU 10TH PLACE PORK SPARE RIBS</u>	<u>\$ 50.00 EACH PLACE WITH RIBBON</u>

<u>1ST</u>	<u>PLACE BRISKET</u>	<u>\$400.00 AND TROPHY</u>
<u>2ND</u>	<u>PLACE BRISKET</u>	<u>\$350.00 AND TROPHY</u>
<u>3RD</u>	<u>PLACE BRISKET</u>	<u>\$300.00 AND TROPHY</u>
<u>4TH</u>	<u>PLACE BRISKET</u>	<u>\$200.00 AND RIBBON</u>
<u>5TH</u>	<u>PLACE BRISKET</u>	<u>\$100.00 AND RIBBON</u>
<u>6TH</u>	<u>THRU 10TH PLACE BRISKET</u>	<u>\$ 50.00 EACH PLACE WITH RIBBON</u>

OVERALL GRAND CHAMPION

**BANNER & FREE ADMISSION TO
2012 COOK OFF**

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

BANNER